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In Memoriam - Clarence Preston Gillette; Russia Harris; Murray L. Hutton; Daniel Walter Morehouse; William R. B. Robertson

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In Memoriam



CLARENCE PRESTON GILLETTE
1859-1941

The passing of C. P. Gillette has removed one of the founders and builders of entomology. The quiet way in which he conducted his work did not always attract current attention and it is necessary to work in retrospect over a wide range to fully evaluate his contributions in their entirety. Doctor Gillette was a scientist of world renown, a teacher of all groups and classes, an administrator with unusual and unique ability and a citizen held in utmost esteem by every resident in the community.

Clarence Preston Gillette was born April 7, 1859 in Ionia County, Michigan, and died at his home in Fort Collins, Colorado on January 4, 1941, almost completing 82 years of life, a life of service for the betterment of his fellow man. He married Clara Smith at Portland, Michigan, March 31, 1886. Two daughters survive, Miss Esther Gillette of Cleveland, Ohio and Mrs. Florence Malcouronne of Fort Collins, with whom Doctor Gillette made his home following the death of Mrs. Gillette.

Doctor Gillette was graduated in 1886 from Michigan State College with the degree Bachelor of Science. The degree Master of Science was obtained from the same institution in 1887. The honorary degree of Doc-

tor of Science was conferred on him by the same institution in 1916 in recognition of his services and attainments.

Doctor Gillette started his professional career by serving as the first assistant employed in the Department of Zoology of the Michigan State College. In 1888 he accepted the position of entomologist at the Iowa State College Experiment Station. His publications at this institution include Bulletin No. 4 of the Iowa Experiment Station. In 1891 the Colorado Agricultural College established a new department of Zoology, Entomology and Physiology and called Doctor Gillette to take charge of it. His arrival in Fort Collins was on February 7th so it was that fifty years of service were given to the institution and community.

The effort of those early days as they have been told are most fascinating and can serve as an inspiration and guide to any young man looking ahead to a career. It is hard for one today to understand how one man could crowd so much of building into the days of life as Doctor Gillette did in those pioneer times. There were classes to teach, material to obtain, collections to be developed, data to be obtained from new pests in a territory which was developing rapidly with cultivated crops replacing the growing of the virgin soil. It was then that the Colorado potato beetle was finding the homesteaders' potato plants more to its liking than the wild buffalo burr, *Solanum rostratum*. It was then that the habits of the prairie dog could be studied in the backyard at home in an effort to grow a vegetable garden. It was then that the trip home and return to the office was made with a collecting net in order that there might be a reference collection for the college. It was these insects and notes in the Accession catalog which served as guide for students in the early 1900's. The entire knowledge of virgin territory was obtained through direct, personal contact with field conditions. It was much slower to work a territory by foot or horse and buggy than by auto and plane. It was necessary to be one's own specialist to identify all orders of insects and it was necessary to work out life histories to plan the economic control of pests. All of this was carried forward in such a quiet manner but with untiring efforts. He often would pin insects and make accession notes while discussing class or personal problems with students.

Doctor Gillette was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, an honorary fellow of the Entomological Society of America, a charter member of the American Association of Economic Entomologists and served as its president in 1901. He was an honorary member of the Iowa Academy of Science, a member of the Colorado-Wyoming Academy of Sciences, the American Genetic Association and the American Eugenics Society. He was chairman of the Rocky Mountain Conference of Entomologists from its organization in 1923 until 1939, when he was made honorary chairman. He was a member of the honorary societies of Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi and Alpha Zeta.

Doctor Gillette was probably best known in the field of entomology through his work with Cynipidae, Cidellidae and Aphidae. His work in this last group was continually outstanding since he laid the foundation for many of the later workers with this complicated group of insects. It was his privilege to be associated with many of the early discoveries

of the various stages of life history of many of the interesting plants of economic value as well as many of scientific value.

Doctor Gillette must be considered as one of the outstanding teachers of this period of college training. His professional training especially fitted him for this work, but beyond that he had a personality which was fundamentally that of a teacher. He was sympathetic and kind with student endeavors at all times. His personality was such that it attracted students to his special courses after the required courses were out of the way. It was his privilege to inaugurate some of the new courses as they were developed in the field of entomology and in biology. The fact that he was able to establish a training center for workers in entomology is a testimony to his standing as a teacher. Those who have gone out from his instruction in entomology are now found in responsible jobs throughout the United States and many foreign countries. The inspiration which he gave to these students is carrying on in their work today as a continued testimony of Dr. Gillette's ability as a teacher. His courses in biology became very popular among all college students. His early course in Eugenics was an innovation in college curricula at the time it was inaugurated by him. His teaching to under-graduate students carried on through to graduate students. His objective was to develop the initiative of the student but he had a keen, sly way of dropping statements or asking questions which would probably serve as a lead for further effort by the student. His help was always given in a manner which would create further effort by the student and continue self respect in attempting a solution of the problem.

The teaching which was so successful in the classroom was carried to the field among adults. As a lecturer on short course programs Doctor Gillette was without an equal. His early efforts were associated with the problems of fruit growers in the western states and it is said that many of these producers were able to continue in business profitably as a result of the knowledge which they were able to obtain at the short courses where Doctor Gillette was a speaker. His reputation as a lecturer on topics of natural science led to many requests for his appearance on programs of clubs of many varieties throughout the state. His quiet method of presentation made him a speaker easy to listen to and therefore it was possible to absorb the greatest amount from his lectures.

It is probable that no one individual will ever be able to collect all of the stories which would show the tremendous amount of good that Doctor Gillette did for students during their college career. His reputation as a counselor went far beyond those enrolled in his classes and he was called upon to help with problems of diverse nature from students in all college fields as well as science. Closely associated with this trait of Doctor Gillette is the fact that many students had an opportunity to come under the influence of the thought and inspiration of this man in his conduct of a Sunday school class in the Presbyterian church. It was indeed a privilege to study under Doctor Gillette during the week in the field of science and to be with him on Sunday for his teaching from the Bible. It was at this period that there was considerable popular turmoil relative to the proposed conflict between science and religion and Doctor Gillette always contended that in his mind there was no conflict and he

could see no reason why there should be divergence of opinion or conflict in the mind of anyone who might be thoroughly familiar with the two fields of science and religion. He was a student of the Bible and collected many books on this subject. His Sunday school classes were always well attended as it was known for open and free discussion of the practical application of religion to everyday living. He was a member of the Presbyterian church at Fort Collins almost 50 years and was a member of the Board of Trustees most of this time.

Doctor Gillette was an unusually successful administrator. In 1907 he became Colorado's first State Entomologist in charge of the Colorado Crop Pest Law which was then a new piece of legislation for any state to enact. His operation of the provisions of this law made it outstandingly successful and was the example for many other states to attempt to follow. It would seem from his very nature that he would not take well to the duties necessary in the enforcement of a law, but this he did in a characteristic firm but kind manner, a method which commanded respect of the law and built up the value of the law as it might apply to the industry which it was supposed to protect. He held the position of State Entomologist for a period of 24 years.

On July 1, 1910 Doctor Gillette was asked to assume the directorship of the Colorado Experiment Station. He continued in this position until September 1, 1932, when he became Director emeritus. During the last years of his connection with the Colorado State College he served as Vice-President for the institution. As Director of the Experiment Station he conducted his official duties in a manner which promoted intense interest in scientific research and its application to the problems of the state. It was during this period that the Experiment Station enjoyed a very successful growth of all of its activities. His effort was to promote and encourage the best of research effort in all lines. He seemed to be able to understand the difficulties of the many lines of research work and to offer sympathetic aid in getting underway with projects and continuing them to conclusion. His spirit of fairness was a factor in developing the personnel of the Experiment Station. The kindly interest and words of encouragement to workers in all stations of life made all feel that they had a definite part in the development of any undertaking with which Dr. Gillette was connected. His approach to all problems and to all co-workers was that of a humble attitude which immediately commanded respect and sympathetic understanding of the problems which all had to face.

Those who have known Doctor Gillette best, those who have known his influence in many ways are the ones who can feel the greatest amount of his influence. It is the responsibility of everyone who has had the opportunity to have contact with him to attempt to pass on some of the wonderful lessons which came from association with Doctor Gillette. The impressions which he made on students who went through college must carry on through the lives of those people as they go through their adult life. Surely it must be a reward for any one individual to feel as he must have felt that he had served so many so well who were interested in carrying forward the principles which he has given to them. There are many who must be carrying on in their problems today with the realiza-

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tion that the spirit of Doctor Gillette is with them now as it was with them in their times of trials as students or later as research workers.

F. B. PADDOCK

Ames, Iowa

May, 1941



RUSSIA HARRIS

1903-1939

Miss Russia Harris died suddenly at Winnetka, Illinois, on November 4, 1939, of a heart attack. She had had some illness during the previous year, but none of her friends had suspected that her condition was serious.

Miss Harris was born in Adair, Iowa, August 28, 1903. After graduation from high school she taught school in Adair and Cass counties and in Algona. In 1925, she entered the Iowa State Teachers College, where she received her bachelor's degree in 1929. She then entered the University of Iowa, majoring in general science and education, and after the first year, teaching in the Iowa City High School. Her master's thesis, "A course of study in general science for junior high school," was later published in book form, and she was continuing on work toward the doctorate at the time of her death. In the spring of 1939, she was called to Wilmette, Illinois, to plan and supervise the work in general science in the Junior High School.

Miss Harris was an ardent field naturalist. She spent two summers at the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory and one with geology field group at Baraboo. A tactful and stimulating teacher, she had made a great success of her school work and looked forward with eagerness to the opportunities afforded by her new work. In addition, as a devoted churchwoman, she made an outstanding contribution to the work of the church school in Trinity Church, Iowa City, some of the results of which will shortly be

published in the form of a history of the parish on the occasion of its hundredth anniversary.

Overcoming very real difficulties, she had made of her life a happy and useful and, in a very real sense, a successful one. We honor her as one of that group of devoted teachers whose work in interpreting science is of fundamental significance. Her sterling personal characteristics, while known to fewer, meant even more to those who knew her, and her friends will cherish the memory of a warm, frank, honest and sincere human personality.

G. W. MARTIN

State University of Iowa



MURRAY L. HUTTON
1886-1941

Murray L. Hutton passed away at Des Moines Feb. 18, 1941, following an auto collision accident a short distance north of the city January 30. Born on a farm near Columbus Junction, Iowa, Feb. 11, 1886, he finished the curriculum of the town public schools. Intermittently from 1905 to 1910, he studied civil engineering at Iowa State College, where he made an excellent record and attained standing as a Senior. Between periods of college attendance he was employed by the C. M. & St. P. Railway 15 months and the Great Northern Railway 15 months. During 1911 he was engaged in drainage engineering in Humboldt county, Iowa. From 1912 to 1914, Hutton served as county engineer in Louisa County, Iowa, in 1915 was engaged in private engineering six months and employed by the Central States Engineering Co., Muscatine, Iowa, and from 1916 to 1918 was county engineer in Des Moines Co., Iowa. From August, 1918 to June, 1919, he managed a hardware store at Hallock, Minn. In 1919 his employment with the Iowa State Highway Commission, Ames, began, and in 1923 as an assistant engineer in administration along with other duties Hutton was placed in charge of the road work at the State Parks and Institutions in accordance with legislation passed by the 37th General Assembly.

In 1929 the State Board of Conservation named him Engineer and Superintendent of the land under their jurisdiction, chiefly the State Parks. On the consolidation of the Board of Conservation and the State Fish and Game Commission, 1935, the newly created State Conservation Commission selected Mr. Hutton as State Conservation Director which posi-

tion he held until his untimely death. From April, 1933 to Jan. 14, 1935, he served also as chief engineer of Emergency Conservation Work for Iowa in connection with Civil Conservation Corps Work in state parks and other state-owned areas, and from July, 1934 to May 1, 1935 was Project Supervisor of State Planning Project No. 1045, which pertained to surveys of lakes, rivers, streams, and improvements thereof.

He married Miss Tecla Johnson of Hallock, Minn., April 25, 1913, who with a son, Donald, survives. After coming to Ames in 1919, the Huttons continued their residence there.

Although trained primarily as a civil engineer, Mr. Hutton was deeply interested in nature and in outdoor recreation, and thoroughly conversant with newer ideals and plans for conservation. As Superintendent of the Board of Conservation he took an important part in the formulation of the Iowa 25-year plan for conservation which he kept ever before him to the close of his service. A brilliant mathematician, he analyzed all situations in detail and exactly, formulated plans very carefully and checked everything painstakingly.

As an associate member of the Iowa Academy of Science he expressed an interest in mathematics and geology. He was also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Iowa Engineering Society, the Iowa Historical Society, Story County Conservation Committee, Kossuth County Conservation League, American Fisheries Society, International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, and the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Commissioners, of which group he was President, 1940.

Publications

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GEORGE O. HENDRICKSON

Dept. of Zoology and Entomology

Iowa State College

April, 1941



DANIEL WALTER MOREHOUSE
1876-1941

After a prolonged illness from heart trouble aggravated by pneumonia Dr. D. W. Morehouse, president of Drake University since 1923, died on the evening of January 21st, 1941, aged 64 years.

He was born in a log cabin in Mankato, Minnesota on February 22nd, 1876, the son of Aaron and Sabra Ann Morehouse. Attending college first at Northwestern Christian College in Excelsior, Minn., from 1895 to 1897, he then entered Drake University, and since that time until his death he had maintained an almost continuous connection with Drake. He received his B. S. degree from Drake in 1900, at which time he was made professor of physics and astronomy at his Alma Mater. Graduate work included work at the University of Chicago in 1902; an M. S. in 1902 from Drake; and a Ph.D. from the University of California in 1914. In 1932 Butler University conferred upon him the LL.D. degree.

Dr. Morehouse was research assistant at Yerkes Observatory during the summer of 1909, and was part-time instructor in astronomy at the University of California in 1911 and 12. From 1919 to 1922 he was Dean of Men at Drake University, then Dean of the Liberal Arts College and President from 1923 to 1930, and President only from 1930 on.

In 1927 Dr. Morehouse went to Europe, continuing his scientific work in conferences with astronomers abroad. For a short time in 1930 he served as guest director of the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, Illinois. During the same year he had the honor to be elected president of the astronomical division of The American Association for the Advancement of Science. Since he had been instrumental in securing the 1929 convention of this organization for Des Moines, this fact, among others, caused Dr. Morehouse to be given the Des Moines Service Award in 1928, awarded to the citizen who has rendered the most distinguished service to his city during that year.

Another evidence of his sense of civic responsibility was the fact that he obtained the support of the business men of Des Moines in the building of the Drake-Municipal Observatory, which was dedicated in 1921 to Des Moines for the use of the university students and the citizens alike. Often this zealous, careful scientist spent most of the night at the observatory, then was at his desk at the university all the next day.

The most noted achievement of Dr. Morehouse in his chosen scientific field was his discovery of a new comet, named the Morehouse Comet, on September 1st, 1908. For this discovery he was awarded the Donohue Comet Medal for 1908.

Dr. Morehouse was a Fellow of the Iowa Academy of Science and its honored president in 1921-1922, and of the Royal Astronomical Society. He was also a member of the American Astronomical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, The British Astronomical Association, Sigma Xi, and Phi Beta Kappa. He had participated in four expeditions to view eclipses, and had lectured before many scientific groups in all parts of the nation. Numerous technical articles on astronomical subjects were written by him.

In his capacity as college president he was a member of the Iowa College Presidents Association, and in 1938 was chairman of the advisory committee appointed by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Dr. Morehouse sincerely professed and practiced the Christian faith, being an active member of the Disciples of Christ church, and serving as president of its International Convention in 1934, while in 1935 he was the fraternal delegate to the world convention of his church held in England. Dr. Morehouse was another one of the great scientists of the world who saw no conflict whatsoever between science and religion, attributing all the wonders of the natural world to God, the Creator. He was truly a fine, Christian gentleman, a noble spirit of deep consecration and high idealism. His friends and associates always felt a mutual sympathy and understanding, a believing in people, and a sense of fairness. Cultured, courteous, he walked this life with unflinching poise, a truly great man of his age.

Ever an inspiration to his students, he was "one of the grandest teachers this country ever produced," a liberal educator who gave a large measure of academic freedom in teaching to his faculties. His large frame and leonine presence matched his stalwart character in the two spheres of his life's activities, for Dr. Morehouse was one of the few educators who was also actually distinguished in one special field of knowledge. His place in the life of the community and state will be hard to fill, the loss is so great.

I. F. NEFF
Des Moines, Iowa
April 1941



WILLIAM R. B. ROBERTSON
1882-1941

The death of Dr. William R. B. Robertson occurred suddenly at his home in Coralville on the morning of Saturday, March 15th, as he was on the point of leaving to meet his class in the University; the immediate cause of his death being a coronary thrombosis. He was fifty-nine years old, and had apparently been, up to this time, in good health.

Dr. Robertson was born in Kansas and received his education in the public schools of that state. He graduated from the University of Kansas in 1906 with the degree of B.A., and, a year later, received the degree of M.A. from the same institution. He received the degree of Ph.D. from Harvard in 1915.

Returning to the University of Kansas he was successively instructor, assistant professor and associate professor of zoology. Later he held the position of associate professor of zoology at the University of Missouri.

Coming to the University of Iowa as an assistant professor in the Department of Anatomy in 1930, he conducted classes in histology and genetics. It was the latter subject which commanded his major interest, and to the knowledge of which he made his most important contributions. A considerable portion of his time, during his incumbency at the University of Iowa, was employed in the supervision of the work of graduate students in this field.

His published papers, including those which were written in collaboration with students whose work was done under his direction, number more than thirty titles. Other papers, written by him, but based on work on the effect of X-rays on the germ cells of a group of selected insects,

which was done in conjunction with Dr. R. K. Nabours of the Kansas State College at Manhattan, would bring the number of papers which Dr. Robertson had contributed to about forty. He was also the author of the chapter on the genetic factors in human inheritance in a recent publication on marriage.

His most extensive work, that on the distribution of color factors to be obtained in the cross-breeding of turkeys, although the data are fairly complete, has never been published. At the time of his death he was engaged upon an investigation of multiple digits, and its possible relation to twinning.

Dr. Robertson was a member of a number of the leading scientific societies, among which were the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Society of Zoologists, the American Society of Naturalists, the American Association of Anatomists, the Genetic Society of America, the Eugenic Society and the Eugenics Research Society. His work on the color factors which appear in the cross-breeding of turkeys led to his affiliation with the American Breeders Association.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Iowa City, the Triangle Club and various Masonic orders.

While Dr. Robertson's studies in the field of Genetics will assure him a significant place among those who have contributed to the knowledge of that subject, he will be remembered by those who knew him best for his broad intellectual interests and fine humanitarian spirit.

A. E. LAMBERT
Iowa City, Iowa
March 1941